31st January 1961]

SRI S. LAZAR : பிளானிங் கமிஷன் இது சம்பந்தமாக ஆலோசனை சொல்லவில்லை என்று சொன்னபோதிலும் நமது சர்க்கார் விவசாயத்திற்கு உபயோகிக்கக்கூடிய டீசல் ஆயிலுக்கு சப்ஸிடி அல்லது வேறு முறையில் ஊக்கம் அளிப்பதாக உறுதி கொடுத்ததே, அது என்ன ஆயிற்று ?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : சர்க்கார் இதைப் பரிசீலனை செய்வதாக உறுதி கொடுத்தது. அந்த முறையில் தீவிரமாகப் பரிசீலனை செய்தது. இதில் ஏதாவது நிவாரணம் கொடுக்க ஆரம்பித்தால் நிர்வாகத்தில் தொல்லை தொந்திரவுகளும், மேற்கொண்டு வரியை ஏமாற்றுகிற வழிகளும் அதிகரித்து விடும். ஏனென்றால், டீஸல் எண்ணெயை வாங்கி விவசாயத்திற்கு உபயோகப்படுத்துகிறார்களா அல்லது மோட்டாருக்குப் போடுகிறார்களா என்று கண்டுபிடிப்பது கஷ்டமானது. இருக்கக்கூடிய தொல்லை தொந்தரவுகளைப் பார்த்து நிவாரணம் அளிக்க முடியவில்லை என்ற முடிவுக்கு அரசாங்கம் வந்திருக்கிறது.

MR. SPEAKER : Questions are over.

[*Note.*—AN ASTERISK (*) AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF A SPEECH INDICATES REVISION BY THE MEMBER.]

II.—ANNOUNCEMENTS.

(1) MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR.

MR. SPEAKER : I have received a message from His Excellency the Governor which reads as follows :—

'Dear Mr. Speaker,

I have received with great satisfaction your resolution of thanks for the address with which I opened the present session of the Legislature . . . .'

III.—CALLING ATTENTION TO THE CLOSURE OF DRAINAGE CHANNELS BY THE DHRANGADHRA CHEMICAL WORKS, SAHUPURAM.

SRI M. S. SELVARAJAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to call the attention of the Hon. Minister for Revenue under rule 41 of the Assembly Rules to an urgent matter of public importance, viz., the damages caused and likely to be caused to thousands of acres of nanja lands under Authoor tank in Tiruchendur taluk in consequence of the closure of many drainage channels by the Dhrangadhra Chemical Works, Limited, Sahupuram, and storing of sea-water close to the nanja lands for salt production. I request the Hon. Minister to make a statement on the matter

* THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government have verified from the local officers whether extensive areas of wet lands under Authoor tank in Tiruchendur taluk, Tirunelveli district, have been adversely affected consequent on the closure of many drainage channels by Dhrangadhra Chemical Works, Limited, Sahupuram, and the storing of sea-water close to the wet lands for salt production.

[Sri M. A. Manickavelu] [31st January 1961

The Authoor tank in Tiruchendur taluk, Tirunelveli district, is a major source with an extensive ayacut of 2,200 acres spread over five revenue villages (viz.), Kayalpatnam North, Authoor cusba, Mela Authoor, Senthamangalam and Suganthalai villages. An extent of 1610·80 acres of dry and wet lands in Punnakayal, Senthamangalam, Authoor cusba and Kayalpatnam North villages has been acquired for the establishment of the Dhrangadhra Chemical Works, Limited, Bombay, for the manufacture of caustic soda and its by-product chlorine. The plant is the largest and most modern in Asia and the present rated capacity of the plant is 30,000 tons of caustic soda per annum and a further increase to 55,000 tons is under contemplation. Chlorine is a by-product and the output is 28,000 tons at present. One of the most important raw materials required is salt and vast extents of lands acquired are intended mainly for the laying out of salt pans.

The lands acquired for the Company for the laying out of salt pans and for the factory quarters, etc., adjoin wet fields in Authoor cusba, Senthamangalam and Kayalpatnam North villages and so naturally some of the drainage channels pass through these lands.

The extent of wet lands under the Authoor tank in Authoor Cusba village is 1,250 acres. One of the drainage channels in this area passes through the lands acquired for the company and the company has not obstructed the flow of water in the channel in any manner.

The extent of wet lands under the tank in Senthamangalam village is 881·00 acres. The field drainage of all the wet lands in this village is carried through a drainage channel in the lands acquired for the company and the company has not obstructed the flow of water in this channel. There is also no damage to standing paddy crops.

The extent of wet lands under the tank in Kayalpatnam North village is only 37·14 acres. The only drainage channel for these lands is in the patta land acquired by the company and the company has not obstructed the channel or in any way interfered with the course of the channel.

Due to abnormally heavy rains in the recent months in this area there was stagnation of 3 to 6 inches of water in some small extents of wet lands in these three villages. The local officers after inspection on 18th January 1961 and after conducting local enquiry have reported that there is no damage to standing crops. The allegation that the stagnation was due to the obstruction caused by the Dhrangadhra Company is therefore not borne out by facts as it was due to the unprecedented rains in November last. As a matter of fact even during the third week of this month there was a heavy rainfall of seven inches.